

**REMARKS**

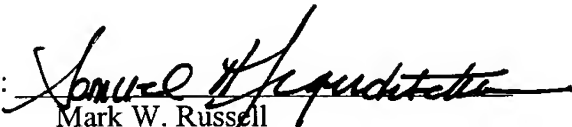
Claims 1-40 are pending. Applicants present new claims 23-40 within the 1-year deadline set by the issue date of U.S. Patent No. 6,489,267 to Reugg. Consequently, no subject matter is hereby disclaimed. If the Examiner believes an interference should be declared with the Reugg patent, Applicants will move forward accordingly. Claims 23-40 read on the elected species.

The amendments and the remarks made herein are not made for reasons related to patentability and, thus, do not prevent the application of the doctrine of equivalents. Support for new claims 23-40 is found throughout the specification and from the pending claims.

Favorable consideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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